

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 281500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3779

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USUN NY 828

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: HOMELAND LEADERS TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER

REF: CAPE TOWN 108

SUMMARY: QAMID GEOWING SPECULATION ABOUT INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI, LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK HOMELANDS ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST JOINT MEETING WITH A SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER MARCH 6. IT UNLIKELY THAT MUCH IN THE WAY OF DEMONSTRATION RESULTS WILL COME FROM MEETING. HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR TO REPRESENT PROGRESS TOWARD CONSULTATIONS (IN REAL SENSE OF THE WORD), WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR THEIR INFREQUENCY AND SUPERFICIALITY. END SUMMARY.

1. LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK HOMELANDS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN THEIR MINDS SALIENT ITEM OF BUSINESS FOR THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 6 JOINT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WILL BE

QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR HOMELANDS. IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS, MOST HOMELAND LEADERS REITERATED THEIR REJECTION OF SAF'S LAND OFFERS, WHICH BASED ON 1936 LAND ACT. THEY DISMISS ACT AS IRRELEVANT, SINCE BLACKS WERE NOT CONSULTED WHEN IT ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT, AND STATE THAT IN ANY EVENT ITS PROVISIONS ARE INADEQUATE.

2. PROFESSOR HUDSON NTSANWISI, GAZANKULU CHIEF MINISTER, HAS TOLD US THAT HE AND OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS ARE CAREFULLY PREPARING FOR MEETING. ALONG WITH LAND ISSUE, THEY WANT TO DISCUSS POSITION OF URBAN AFRICANS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND QUESTION OF FEDERATION. BOPHUTHATSWANA CHIEF MINISTER MANGOPE HAS SAID THEY ALSO HOPE TO DISCUSS INCREASED DEVELOPMENT AID TO HOMELANDS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOMELAND GOVERNMENT, AND INCREASED CONSULTATION BETWEEN SAG AND HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS.

3. IT IS AGREED IN WHITE POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT SAG IS INTENT ON ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MOREOVER, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING SPECULATION (WHICH EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD NOW THAN EARLIER THIS MONTH, AS REPORTED IN DURBAN'S 0040) THAT A DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGARD COULD TAKE PLACE VERY SOON.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, AS SOME ARE SAYING, THAT SAG COULD HAVE MADE DEAL IN LAND ISSUE WITH TRANSKEI'S CHIEF MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA IN EXCHANGE FOR REQUEST BY TRANSKEIAN GOVERNMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE, THERE NO SOLID EVIDENCE NOW AT HAND TO CONFIRM THIS. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD SEEM HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSKEI WOULD BE MADE AT MARCH 6 MEETING.

5. WITH RESPECT TO LAND ISSUE, IT VERY DOUBTFUL THAT VORSTER AND HOMELAND LEADERS WILL COME TO ANY AGREEMENT DURING MEETING. SAG HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT IT WILL NOT GO BEYOND PROVISIONS OF 1936 ACT. EVEN IF IT WERE DISPOSED TO BACK AWAY FROM THAT POSITION, IT WOULD HARDLY DO SO PUBLICLY WITH GENERAL ELECTION LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY.

6. GIVEN PRESENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, THERE DOES NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEAT NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH CHANCE EITHER THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THE OTHER AREAS WHICH HOMELAND LEADERS WISH TO DISCUSS WITH VORSTER. NEVERTHELESS, THIS FIRST JOINT MEETING BETWEEN A SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER AND ALL HOMELAND LEADERS SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED OUT OF HAND. AS NTSANWISI SAID TO US, HE AND OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS REGARD IT AS A BREAKTHROUGH THAT VORSTER HAS RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THEIR REQUEST FOR MEETING. THUS, IN THIS VIEW, MEETING CAN

BE REGARDED AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD REAL CONSULTATIONS, WHICH
HERETOFORE HAVES BEEN NOTABLE FOR THEIR INFREQUENCY AND SUPER-
FICIALITY. BUT WHILE MEANS FOR CONSULTATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THERE EXISTS A TRUE
BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND GENUINE, PRODUCTIVE RESULTS.
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